

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 2, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as currently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-13 are currently pending. The present amendment amends Claims 1-3 and 5-13 and cancels Claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed application. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to because of informalities. Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hamamatsu et al. (U.S. Application Publication No. 2002/0116092, herein "Hamamatsu"). Claims 4-6, 8, 11, and 12 were objected to but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in the claims.

In response to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a Letter Submitting Replacement Drawing Sheets along with 2 Replacement Sheets for Figs. 1 and 2 adding function labels to the blank boxes as requested in the Office Action. Accordingly, Figs. 1 and 2 are now believed to be compliant and no further objection on this basis is anticipated.

In response to the objection to Claim 4, independent Claim 1 is amended to incorporate allowable Claim 4. Claim 4 is thus cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 3 and 13 are now allowable.

In response to the objection to Claims 5, 11, and 12, Claims 5, 11, and 12 are amended to incorporate base Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 5, 11, and 12 and associated dependent Claims 6 and 8 are now allowable.

In response to the rejection of Claim 2, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection and traverses the rejection as discussed next.

Claim 2, now rewritten in independent form, recites, inter alia, “data exchange among at least parts of said digital data merging unit, said protection / control unit, said communication unit for component control devices, and said process bus communication unit is based on a *single master mode*.”

The Office Action asserts on page 4 that paragraph 0150 of Hamamatsu teaches “said process bus communication unit being based on a single master mode instead of the multimaster mode.” Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that Hamamatsu only teaches that “each one of the communication means, the CPU and the electric power supply can be commonly served and be integrated into a single unit.”¹ This integrated *unit* does not teach or suggest a “process bus communication unit based on a *single master mode*,” as recited in Claim 2 and discussed in paragraphs 0160-0172 of Applicant’s specification.

In response to the rejection of Claim 7, and in the spirit of moving prosecution forward for the present application, Claim 7 is amended to distinguish Applicant’s invention even further from the prior art.

Claim 7, now rewritten in independent form, recites, inter alia, that “said protection / control unit transmits said control signal with a predetermined period *synchronized with a processing period* of protecting or controlling in said protection / control unit to said component control device, and said component control device monitors status event of said substation main equipment by a *sampling synchronized with a timing* at which said component control device receives the control signal.” These amendments find non-limiting support in the originally filed application, for example in paragraphs 0228-0241.

¹ Hamamatsu, paragraph 0150.

The Office Action asserts on page 5 that paragraph 0466 of Hamamatsu discloses “transmits said control signal with a predetermined period, and said component control device monitors said substation main equipment based on a timing at which said component control device receives the control signal.” However, Applicant respectfully submits that Hamamatsu neither teaches nor suggests transmitting “said control signal with a predetermined period *synchronized with a processing period*” or a “sampling *synchronized with a timing* at which said component control device receives the control signal,” as recited in amended Claim 7, nor does it disclose any synchronization of units.

In response to the rejection of Claims 9 and 10, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection and traverses the rejection as discussed next.

Claim 9, now rewritten in independent form, recites, inter alia, “an input/output unit for component control devices which is not adaptable to the digitization of a transmission medium, configured to transmit to said protection / control unit component monitor data outputted from one component control device or a plurality of component control devices controlling said substation main equipment, and to output the control signal outputted from said protection / control unit to said component control device(s), and has a mechanical or static relay section configured to ON/OFF output the control signal to said component control and an insulated input section configured to ON/OFF input said data input thereto from said component control device.” These features find non-limiting support in the originally filed application, for example in paragraphs 0267-0273 and in Claim 10.

The Office Action asserts on page 5 that paragraphs 0425-0428, 0446-0449, and 0458-0466 of Hamamatsu disclose “a mechanical or static relay section configured to ON/OFF output the control signal to said component control device; and an insulated input section configured to ON/OFF input said data input thereto from said component control device.” However, Applicant respectfully submits that Hamamatsu only discloses a

controlling-and-monitoring unit corresponding to a “component control device” with communication means and does not disclose the claimed digital protection / control device. In particular, Hamamatsu does not teach or suggest the “an *input/output* unit for component control devices which is not adaptable to the digitization of a transmission medium” by the “digital protection / control device” as recited in Claim 9. Similarly, a “digital protection / control device [that] is *coupled to an external input/output device* by a transmission medium,” as recited in Claim 10, is also not taught or suggested by Hamamatsu.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Hamamatsu does not teach all the features of amended independent Claims 2, 7, 9, and 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 2, 7, 9, and 10 be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that other minor amendments to the claims, which are not believed to affect the patentability of the claims, are supported by the originally filed application and therefore do not add new matter. Specifically, “protection and control device” was replaced by “protection / control device” and “a control signal for protection and control” was replaced by “a control signal for at least one of protection and control” in the claims. Claim 13 was also amended to recite a protection / control unit having “both of a protection function and a control function.” For example, the “protection / control device” recited in Claim 1 finds non-limiting support in the claims and in protection unit 121 and control unit 122. The “protection / control device” recited in Claim 13 also finds non-limiting support in protection and control unit 12.

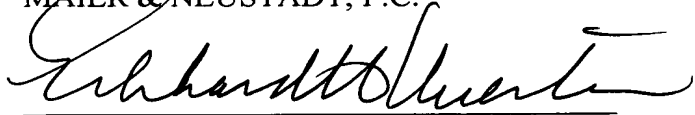
Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-3 and 5-13 is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of December 9, 2004

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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